

Labor Day! a bittersweet celebration

BY JASON HOUK

We think of Labor Day as a bookend of summer. It's the last official weekend before students go back to school and thoughts turn to fall.

Created during the turbulent labor movement in the late 19th century, Labor Day is traditionally celebrated with parades, picnics, barbecues and other public gatherings. It's a celebration of labor and the working class. The modern Labor Day is one of the major retail sales weekends, and with 70 percent of retail workers kept as part-timers, Labor Day is likely to be just another work day for the nation's worst-paid, not-quite-employees.

Only a generation ago, it was common for a single wage earner to support a family, buy a house, send their children to college and afford a comfortable retirement. It was the 'American Dream' and it was attainable for those who worked hard. Now folks work multiple jobs and dream of just keeping up with basic bills, forget about extras and kids go off to college and face exorbitant debt.

Today, just having a job is a victory and having a full time, living wage job is truly rare. Almost half of workers are now part of the "contingent workforce". They are the temps, contract workers, seasonal workers, and warehouse labor working for businesses like Medford's own Harry and Davids.

These are service, retail, food production and dead-end office jobs: telemarketing, janitors, security, etc. These workers are deliberately kept from working 40 hours a week, because only then would they be entitled to benefits and legal protections reluctantly granted to full-time employees.

While minimum wage workers have won victories for living wages, the burger-flipping robot and the self-service checkout computer are quickly replacing these minimum wage positions.

We are seeing further erosion of the middle class as workers and students are saddled with crippling debt. The average Oregon college student

LABOR 11

Lesson and legacy of Ferguson

Militarization of police threatens community peace

BY JASON HOUK

In Ferguson Missouri, a black youth is shot dead by police. It is a tragic scene that plays out across America in big cities and small towns. But when Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old was killed by a police officer in a St Louis suburb, it touched off a week of protests and violence and brought national attention to long-simmering racial tensions in a city of predominantly black residents.

Protests began almost immediately as the story went viral on social media with images of Brown's body left at the scene for several hours after the shooting.

For more than a week, an American neighborhood was under the kind of siege we see in war zones like the Ukraine or Gaza. Protesters clashed with police who

looked more like soldiers than peace officers. Middle-class Americans were shocked to watch as neighborhoods much like their own, suffered nightly attacks by rubber bullets, sound cannons and tear gas on their television screens.

Protesters stood their ground within the view of the media, rioters played cat and mouse with police patrols and dystopic scenes played out as lines of soldiers enforced curfews and cleared yards and streets with gas and incendiary devices.

The actions of St. Louis County Police were so outrageous that Metro (city) Police refused to assist in "militarized tactics" and Governor Jay Nixon stepped in, revoking the County contract for police services in Ferguson and calling in support of the National Guard.

But the actions in Ferguson



Hands Up! Don't Shoot! Rogue Valley locals stand in solidarity with Ferguson *Photo by Jenny Graham*

did not develop in a vacuum. The military style tactics and equipment used in St. Louis and around the nation are a result of our 9/11 legacy. According to Pentagon data, over the last decade, police departments have received tens of thousands of machine guns; hundreds

of thousands of ammunition magazines; thousands of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment; and hundreds of silencers, armored cars and even military aircraft.

LESSONS 7

All compasses point to hope

BY VANESSA HOUK

I think about Robin Williams and somewhere inside my mind, I go 25 years back in time to 1989 and I'm driving my Dad's red Nissan truck, listening to 93 Rock on the radio and the DJ is playing an R.E.M. song. "Stand in the place where you live Now face north Think about direction Wonder why you haven't before."

Then I am sitting in the front row of a multiplex theater outside of Sacramento, watching Dead Poets Society for the third time. On the huge screen in front of me, Williams is being inspiring and funny and he's giving a message about living a life that has meaning and says, "No matter what anyone tells you, words and ideas can change the world", something I take with me when I pack up and leave Sacramento just a few months later on my way to attend college in Ashland.

It's just a movie and he's a man that I will never meet in this lifetime. And later on I will become someone who has a tendency to roll her eyes when other people mourn famous people. He's not my friend or neighbor, but there's something so familiar and known about him that I can't help but to feel some small sense

of fellowship, as strange as that is to say. After all, he's been on the sidelines of my life, on the screen all these years, making me laugh and think and dream.

And cry.

Nine years pass and somehow, however unthinkable, it's a few weeks after my son's funeral. Since then I've been outside the apartment a number of times with family and friends-- to the cemetery, a restaurant, a doctors appointment, but now I get it in my head that I want to go somewhere alone. I am not ready to talk to other people, so a movie seems like the best choice under the circumstances.

I settle into a seat inside the theatre and "What Dreams May Come" begins, an emotionally charged film. As I sit there in the dark, finally by myself for the first time in all these weeks, I allow myself to begin to feel all I have lost. Tears fall and by the time the screen credits begin to roll at the end, somehow I feel a little less alone. That was one of his biggest gifts, that ability to reach out to his audience and connect.

To be creative is to stretch oneself into dark and tiny spaces, to feel the scariest feelings and then use whatever art form of choice to share that space with others. Robin Williams did that



Actor Robin Williams marches in the picket line with others during a strike by television and film writers in 2008

repeatedly and beautifully as he took us along and narrated life through the characters he played and the comedy sketches he wrote. Through the magic of film, we took his hand and followed, glad to tag along for the ride on the flying carpet one more time. We just expected that ride to last a lot longer.

Instead his dreams ended on August 11 when he took his own life, leaving behind a wife, three children and millions of the rest of us who somehow felt like he was part of our tribe.

To lose another outstandingly creative person to suicide, dredges up reminders of several Rogue Valley residents who killed themselves and others who, even as recently as just a few weeks before William's death, cried out for help and averted such an ending. Part of our mission at RVCP is to shine light in the darkest places and to talk about subjects that, while they are difficult and uncomfortable to speak of, we know that by doing so we can erase stigmas and change other people's experiences along the way.

HOPE 9

Editorials & Opinion

Dear readers...
Letter from the editor

It was right around this time three years ago, that information about Occupy Wall Street was passed around Twitter and Facebook feeds and social media helped fuel a movement that aimed to raise awareness and understanding about economic inequality. As word spread across the country, organizers scurried to plan protests in public squares and parks, so citizens could express themselves and within a month there were gatherings in multiple cities across every single US state and territory.

The Rogue Valley saw several occupations, the longest was in the Ashland Plaza where at its beginning hundreds of people stood shoulder-to-shoulder, listening to speeches from labor organizers, State Representative Peter Buckley and Ashland’s Mayor John Stromberg who were all sympathetic to the challenges people faced.

For us personally, it was a chance to finally be heard and we showed up with a stack of double sided 11” x 17” broadsheets with a green printed header and “The Ashland Free Press” at the top. Steve and Whitney over at A Street Print and Parcel donated the use of their printer and we started off with 500 copies of what now seems like a bit of an angry, rant-filled document, but in our defense we had some things to get off

our chests. We started handing out copies that day and by nightfall they were all gone. We printed off hundreds more and brought them back down to the plaza on the second day and not only did they disappear quickly, but people we didn’t even know were coming up to us asking for stacks they could distribute. Between the two of us, we kind of figured our foray into print publishing was over, but then we started getting feedback from people who had actually read the thing and liked it and many of them were asking us when the next issue would hit the streets. So what could we do but keep going? The Ashland Free Press was printed by our friends at A Street Print and Parcel for a year, through October 2012. In December 2012, we became the newspaper you are holding now.

When we became the Rogue Valley Community Press we did so with the intention of having a broader impact as we wanted more space to delve into the life and death issues that fuel our indignation; lack of access to health care, the privatization of our public resources, student debt, poverty and homelessness, just to to name a few. We’ve tried to continually cover these issues while hopefully showing our readers that all of these issues are connected.

This isn’t the Vanessa and Jason show either. From the

crumpled up dollar bill that is handed to us by our low income supporters to the organizations, businesses and nonprofits who have rallied around us to keep us in print, we are grateful to every single one of you. You keep us going, make our voices a little louder and keep us standing taller. Thank you!

And we’re still dedicated to telling the stories behind the issues but we think of this little paper as your paper, it belongs to the community. It’s your chance to be heard. We’re listening. Send your submissions to editor@rvcommunitypress.com.

Kindly,
Vanessa and Jason Houk



A little known
Robin Williams story

BY BRIAN LORD

Years ago I learned a very cool thing about Robin Williams, and I couldn’t watch a movie of his afterward without thinking of it. I never actually booked Robin Williams for an event, but I came close enough that his office sent over his rider. For those outside of the entertainment industry, a rider lists out an artist’s specific personal and technical needs for hosting them for an event-anything from bottled water and their green room to sound and lighting requirements. You can learn a lot about a person from their rider. This is where rock bands list their requirement for green M&Ms (which is actually a surprisingly smart thing to do). This is also where a famous environmentalist requires a large gas-guzzling private jet to fly to the event city, but then requires an electric or hybrid car to take said environmentalist to the event venue when in view of the public.

When I got Robin Williams’ rider, I was very surprised by what I found. He actually had a requirement that for every single event or film

he did, the company hiring him also had to hire a certain number of homeless people and put them to work.

I never watched a Robin Williams movie the same way after that. I’m sure that on his own time and with his own money, he was working with these people in need, but he’d also decided to use his clout as an entertainer to make sure that production companies and event planners also learned the value of giving people a chance to work their way back.

I wonder how many production companies continued the practice into their next non-Robin Williams project, as well as how many people got a chance at a job and the pride of earning an income, even temporarily, from his actions.

He was a great multiplier of his impact. Let’s hope that impact lives on without him. Thanks, Robin Williams-not just for laughs, but also for a cool example.

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We get letters....

Dear Editor:

100 years ago, or even 50 years ago, everyone understood that a corporation was a piece of paper created by the State so that owners of a business enterprise could avoid personal liability for the debts of the business enterprise and to provide an entity to own things and to sue and be sued.

Everyone understood that the corporation resulting from the piece of paper was an amoral, soulless creature, incapable of love, hope, belief, compassion, fear or remorse, a creature “without pride of ancestry or hope of progeny.”

Today corporations have a government-protected right to bend elections, and a government-protected right to disobey the law by the assertion of religious beliefs they are incapable of having. Karl Marx predicted that in time corporations would become more powerful than governments. Let’s hope he was wrong.

Dear Editor:

I hate when people park illegally in Handicapped spaces, so imagine my rage when a business was occupying a Handicapped space with their advertising blowie-whoosh-whoosh thing! I was pissed!

I went in & politely informed the Manager of their illegal use of the space & asked that they relocate the blow-up doll thing. He blew me off.

15 minutes later, on my way back to my car, he was outside talking crap... So I said “Are you going to move it NOW? Or am I going to use my handy cell phone to bring in the ADA Legal team and a media storm from which you will never recover?”

They unplugged & moved that P.O.S. immediately.

Thats what I thought, jerk.

Katy C.

David Beale
Medford

Send your letters to
editor@rvcommunitypress.com

Your Social Justice News Resource

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is your local resource for social justice news. We don’t pretend to hide our biases: RVCP is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community. Published monthly, it is available through subscription, and local retail locations.

The opinions expressed in RVCP are those of the authors, and not necessarily the editorial staff or advertisers.

Is your voice missing in RVCP? What’s on your mind? We’re listening! Send us your story ideas, articles, letters to the editor, guest opinions, poetry or artwork for publication. We welcome unsolicited submissions. We especially welcome articles covering local topics and events. Send submissions to editor@rvcommunitypress.com. If there are topics you would like to see covered, you can send ideas and feedback to the same address.

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Contact

Rogue Valley Community Press
258 A Street #1
Ashland, Oregon 97520
(541) 622-9483
editor@rvcommunitypress.com
advertising@rvcommunitypress.com

Staff

Jason Houk
Publisher

Vanessa Houk
Editor-in-Chief

FIND US AT RVCOMMUNITYPRESS.COM AND ON FACEBOOK

OP ED

Life

Are we not human?

BY ANDREA ANDERSON

“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity” –Nelson Mandela

The United States is often referred to as “the land of the free and the home of the brave”, but this statement only appears to apply to certain segments of our population. This becomes even more evident in a state where some groups of people are constantly overlooked and frequently abused, just because of the way they look or talk.

Essentially, the state of Oregon has close to 4 million residents and an astonishing 12.3% of this number are of Latino descent, however, this number could be higher if undocumented individuals were taken into account. These individuals pay work and pay taxes, have children and families with ties to this state, so why are they forced to hide? Why can't they count? It could be that they live in fear of being deported and losing all they have worked to fight for, or perhaps they don't want to be separated from children that were born as U.S. citizens. Whatever the case may be, the great state of Oregon has a duty to take care of its hidden population, to treat them as people with families, and to not treat them as a number and a nuisance. They are humans with intrinsic rights and should be treated as such. This is why, I, Andrea Anderson, am in favor of immigration reform and here is why I think you should be too.

It is now common knowledge that the United States of America was founded by immigrants and throughout the

centuries has been built through the hopes and hard work of immigrants. Essentially, each large wave of immigration that has occurred within this country has been due to push factors such as religious persecution, widespread famine, and ethnic and cultural genocides. Yet, we have always treated these people as a marginalized population. This has always been a hard concept for me to grasp because were our ancestors treated in such a way? Most likely yes. So before you make rash judgments surrounding an individual's immigration status, stop and think about how you or your ancestors were treated and then ponder how you might feel if you were in their shoes.

For example, as a United States citizen I have certain protections under the Constitution and its amendments, like the right to live my life without fear of unwarranted search and seizure. Now, thanks to a recent federal court ruling, immigrants, regardless of status, are allowed the same protection under this indispensable right.

I would say that this is due to this push for a more humanistic view of immigrants by many non-profit and social service organizations currently working and organizing around this issue. This view has worked to end ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) holds throughout thirty-one counties. This was done as a result of the practices conflict with the constitutional amendment rights of an individual. More specifically, the 4th Amendment states that an individual should be free from arbitrary search and seizures. One may argue that

these undocumented individuals do not deserve this protection under the constitution but once again, I state that this is about human rights.

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the United Nations states, “Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.” Universally, security denotes that the individual is protected from harm, such as religious, ethnic, and cultural persecution. So if an individual is facing said persecution should they not be allowed to take measures necessary to ensure their security? Such as immigration to a safer country? This same declaration also states that, “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest.” An individual should then be protected from unwarranted arrests based on assumptions and judgments. And lastly, “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence...” Essentially, without probable cause, and a warrant, an individual should feel safe from said discretionary practices such as ICE holds. This accomplishment is huge for Oregon, as it sets precedence for other states, but it also puts other changes in motion. We must now continue working together as a state to help complete these motions of comprehensive immigration reform and help to fight injustices felt by contemporary immigrants.

Anderson is a student at University of Southern California who is working towards a Master in social work.

Grief’s lessons: What I gained from losing my son

BY VANESSA HOUK

I am actively avoiding the news these days and I suppose that sounds kind of bad considering the work I do, but word of airstrikes in Iraq in the middle of August makes me want to cover my eyes. Comfort never finds it's way in through avoidance, but I am haunted by the knowledge that innocent people will die. They always do.

Just a few days ago I received a note from a woman who lives in Pakistan, a mother who has buried two of her babies and who discovered a blog about my own infant son Dylan, who died in 1998, back when August became the meanest month on record. She wrote that my words were helping her cope with the overwhelming feelings of such great loss and asked if she could use them and share Dylan's story.

“Yes, please do,” I said, as I acknowledged her pain and that those words belong to mothers and grandmothers around the world, each of us connected by the lonely and invisible threads of grief and loss. Such loss changes the way we look at everything as the lens becomes clearer and as we hopefully steer towards trying to always do what's right and and good and kind.

I remember the first months and years after Dylan's death, when I too searched for words that would help me heal; words that would somehow help form bridges between me and other people even as I was pushing them away from that private world I was existing in--that in between place. I don't think its any different for mothers on the other side of the world. I think we share similar experiences even as the landscapes in our

neighborhoods are different. Grief work demands that we sit still and look deeply within ourselves, and in that sacred space we discover that we aren't in fact as alone as we might lead ourselves to believe. And that tiny, priceless gifts are hiding in the darkest corners of that grief. Kindness, love, a sense of peace.

Still it's uncomfortable to talk about grief. Even all these years later, family and friends don't know what to say to me, they don't know what I need and don't understand that more than anything else, just like the Pakistani mother and the mothers in Iraq and throughout the Middle East, it's just to be listened to. Being heard, all by itself is enough. Being able to tell you about a small boy who never got to see the moon or pause at the troll bridge in Lithia Park on the way to see the Japanese Garden or roll down the top of the hill next to the playground at Briscoe School. Being allowed to acknowledge that this ancient pain nudges against me with a long sigh like the wind makes and sits down and makes itself comfortable in the middle of my own heartache and stays for a long while, especially in the meanest month of the year. I come back to it again every August. It's part of my story, it's become who I am.

And it dawns on me that everyone shares a part of it, whether we know each other or not, because those threads are interwoven all through this beautiful valley and across oceans and distant lands. We've all been touched by it, this loss, grief and pain. And it's biggest gift is that it tries to teach us to be kind and compassionate people, all the world over.

This issue inspired by:

This issue inspired by:

Late blooming wisteria



Sometimes a bet pays off. Author Mary Shelley wrote Frankenstein after a little friendly competition with her future husband, Percy Shelley who was considered to be a radical poet in their time.

Andrew Wyeth's art



The thought that every year about 98% of the atoms in your body are replaced.

Learning that a person can get a hip replacement and go on to do things like zip line and run. Go science and medicine! Also after spending years thinking that the plural of platypus is platypi it turns out that the correct Greek plural would be platypodes although platypuses is also correct. No matter, may there be an abundance of funny creatures in the world and plenty of time to think about what to call them.

Oregon has more ghost towns than any other state in the country. There are over 60 of them, including deserted gold mining towns.

Ask Me

Some time when the river is ice ask me mistakes I have made. Ask me whether what I have done is my life. Others have come in their slow way into my thought, and some have tried to help or to hurt: ask me what difference their strongest love or hate has made.

I will listen to what you say. You and I can turn and look at the silent river and wait. We know the current is there, hidden; and there are comings and goings from miles away that hold the stillness exactly before us. What the river says, that is what I say.

~ William Stafford

ASHLAND'S

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Applause & Hiss





Researchers in Japan debuted the world’s largest indoor farm using LED lights that emit wavelengths optimal for plant growth. The upshot: grows 2.5x faster than outdoors; reduces produce loss from 50% to just 10% and cuts water usage to just 1%



A new study suggests that 25 percent of troops in active duty, Guard and the Reserve use food banks to provide groceries and meals for themselves or their families. The study sponsored by Feeding America, the nation’s largest food bank network, is conducted once every four years and was based on data collected in 2012. It found that four percent of surveyed households who used a food bank contained a currently serving military member.



Just days before its international debut at an airshow in the United Kingdom, the entire fleet of the Pentagon’s next generation fighter plane — known as the F-35 II Lightning, or the Joint Strike Fighter — has been grounded, highlighting just what a boondoggle the project has been. With the vast amounts spent so far on the aircraft, the United States could have worked wonders, including providing every homeless person in the U.S. a \$600,000 home.

Twelve states in the US have contacted out petty court procedures so that residents who owe such things as traffic fines are forced to pay a private company. If they are late with a payment these companies can have the courts issue warrants for their arrest. Human Rights Watch reports that in some states such as Alabama, it becomes a vicious cycle of fines, late fees and jail time. These private companies can also dig up old tickets and go after citizens again and again. It’s pretty bad when private companies are given the power to issue warrants and act as probation officers. Besides Alabama, offending states include Idaho, Washington, Montana, Utah, Colorado, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida.



Not only does the state of Oregon enjoy publicly accessible beaches, but soon they could all be smoke free as well. Oregon Parks and Recreation is in the process of banning smoking on all coastal beaches. It is already unlawful to smoke inside Oregon state parks except for inside vehicles and campgrounds as well as designated smoking areas in an effort to limit smoking. Groups involved in beach cleanups say this will reduce litter as well since cigarette butts account for much of the garbage regularly found on the beaches. Under the proposed ban there would be a \$110 fine for those caught smoking on public beaches within the state.



Building toys that empower girls? Now we’re talking! A few months ago a 7 year old girl got the company’s attention and asked why there were not better female figures. As a result a new playset was released that features a real life geophysicist, Ellen Kooijman.



Will tiny homes break ground in southern Oregon? Some folks are starting to understand that less is more as tiny houses are being built across the country. One group that is paying attention is homeless advocates who say that it’s only a matter of time before they are built in southern Oregon. The tiny home movement is an affordable housing option that could help people get back on their feet. The director of the Ashland Resource Center, Leigh Madsen says, “So that tiny housing gives people a place to stabilize. To begin to heal. To recover if it’s an addiction issue. If it’s a family issue, all of those things happen. Even if it’s the tiniest house.” Current zoning laws in Ashland make this a difficult goal to achieve.



Coyote Trails School of Nature of Medford was a recent recipient of a Captain Planet Foundation grant of \$2,357. The school plans to use the funds for its Fox Trail Youth Adventure. Coyote Trails Executive Director Joe Kreuzman says, “We are excited to work with Captain Planet to continue expanding outdoor nature education opportunities to low-income youth with the aim of empowering the next generation as stewards of the earth.” The Fox Trail Youth Adventure provides an overnight wilderness immersion experience to low-income fifth- to eighth-grade students as part of a year-round mentoring curriculum. It involves hands-on, inquiry-based environmental education incorporating core standards that gives students the knowledge and resources to become better global citizens, problem-solvers and caretakers of the earth

Reflections on Oregon Gulch fire

BY LEAH EV IRELAND

Why does it take a disaster for the deep gold to come out in people? All the religious, political, racial barriers dissolve and we become one at last, able to live the golden rule. We sacrifice without considering, treat one another better than ourselves, and see what isn’t important in our own lives clearly, at last.

Having been at the epicenter of one of the fires-- our house may still burn as of this writing-- I witness the heroism of the Greensprings Volunteer Fire Department. They work nonstop over three days until other professional firefighters join them and then they work together.

A volunteer named Norm drove a fire vehicle into flames to keep a neighbors house from going up. He contained it and saved the house, as fire rivered around him like lava. How is it that some of us become fearless without thoughts of ourselves in catastrophes?

How do we finally get Christ, Buddha, Mohammed or Moses consciousness when we are in great peril, the value of life crystal clear?

Some kids tried to jump the fire line on motor bikes and an exhausted fire volunteer had to keep them back mustering commands that could be heard for miles. The kids retreated and the fireman told us that handling local residents is a hard part of his job. Firefighters become distracted and that adds to the danger all around.

Homeless with several families in our group, we were directed to drive into a large meadow for the night. We circled like “crazy cars” trying to find a dry spot. The sun starts to set. Earlier in the day we witnessed lightening strike a tree and felt safe that things seemed to be contained. Then at 3:00 PM, we suddenly had five minutes to evacuate.

One gets to know themselves quickly in a crisis and objects thrown into a vehicle before evacuating are often photos and “treasures” rather than flashlights, bedrolls, water, real food or jackets. Everything is thrown together in such a rush that it’s a useless mess once you are in the dark. The wise firemen release your chickens who will now feast on your flower and

vegetable garden. Your horses are taken to a close, fenced in pasture instead of being tied to the back of your truck.

Miraculously, the Red Cross appears with sandwiches and Oreo cookies. The Sheriffs Department brings in food from 7-11.

Neighbors are bonded for life, joking “look what it takes to get us together.” All the while the fire changes its form and velocity around the meadows. We see large flamers rise here and there knowing that it could be our house burning as we’ve all lost our sense of direction for the most part, but we are a smiling, warm, generous crew.

It grows darker and we realize that we haven’t prepared a warm, dry place to sleep. Exhausted, in shock, still in adrenaline rush, we will stand up all night visiting, or try to sleep sitting up in the cabs of our trucks.

We are next to the pond that fills the helicopters and what sounds like jets dive bombing are planes dropping fire retardant. It is like a loud war zone, but even through the worst intrusions on the pond, mighty winds and storms of water, the ducks remain tranquil and the sun sets as usual.

The colors of the evening mix with new hues of fire sky. This is different from previous sunsets as the fire begins to compete with the sun to see who is greater, heat and water-air create their own beauty too.

Meanwhile we are taken to the depths of our own minds as never before. We become our truest faith filled, full of extreme hope, despair, and mixed with astonishing beauty and terror amid such genuine human care and kindness. All of our senses are working in extremes. Hpwever one night of being a homeless refugee is enough.

The Oregon Gulch fire burned more than 35,000 acres and took several weeks to completely contain. In the Greensprings area two vacation cabins and one home was lost in the blaze.

To make a donation to the family who lost their home and had no insurance you can walk into any branch of the Rogue Federal Credit Union and donate directly to the Troutman Family Fire Fund.



Citizens for Peace & Justice

www.cpjmedford.org

CPJ MISSION

- Embracing peace within ourselves.
- Calling peace into conflicted lives.
- Promoting a just and peaceful community.
- Educating ourselves and others on alternatives to violence.
- Educating ourselves and others on social justice issues.
- Protesting wars, war-like actions, and unjust laws and unjust actions.
- Building a world beyond war through nonviolent means.



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Rogue Valley residents speak out on climate change

Republicans and anti-science

BY ALAN JOURNET

I have worked in the arena of climate science for many years. Hardly any of the individuals I have met approach research on human-induced climate destruction from a partisan perspective. In science, the conclusions follow from the data; the principle is not that data are accepted or rejected on the basis of whether they conform to preconceived opinions.

Not many years ago, concern about sustainable management and environmental protection was bipartisan. Despite the fact that Republican President Teddy Roosevelt championed environmental protection and Republican President Richard Nixon signed into law the bipartisan Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts while also establishing the Environmental Protection Agency, it seems that not just environmental protection but science itself, have become partisan issues. This is deeply regrettable.

Unfortunately, many Republican representatives now reject science. Many promote non-unscientific opinions about female reproductive biology. Others, meanwhile, insist that scientifically established evolutionary principles are merely unsupported opinion. Most depressingly, at all levels

of government, many elected Republicans flatly deny the overwhelming scientific evidence documenting the view held by nearly all climate scientists across the globe and echoed by every professional scientific society and national academy of sciences that has expressed an opinion, that the planet is warming and humans are contributing.

We desperately need politicians of all affiliations to accept clearly demonstrated scientific conclusions even when this science seems to challenge philosophical beliefs. Only when we accept the apolitical and non-partisan science can we begin to discuss intelligently the political question of how to address this daunting problem.

This letter is a plea to Republicans everywhere to reject convenient stances that require rejection of consensus science and join discussions of how to address scientifically demonstrated problems such as climate destruction in a rational manner.

Alan Journet is the co-facilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN). For more information visit: <http://socan.info>

Is it only make-believe?

Most scientists agree: humans are causing climate change, yet many refuse to believe it. Once intelligent people didn't believe the world was round or the earth circled the sun either. Is it a human condition to deny a big problem rather than face the consequences? Deniers give many reasons for today's climate change: a myth, a natural cycle, and God made this world to perfection, so why worry? None are backed with hard science. If we are called to be good stewards of the earth, we should not allow the ignorance and greed of a few to destroy it. There are those with political

and monetary power who, through their lies, ignore the common good for our planet and its inhabitants. Like spoiled children, they covet their power and money more. We can't ignore the drastic changes in the climate and its effects. If you don't believe it is caused by humans, then consider that even after an "act of God" we must learn to change our habits and to live at peace with nature, or suffer more. We must reach out to each other for this crucial common cause and not let ignorance divide us.

Diana O'Farrell
Ashland

Congress inaction inexcusable

We can lead a horse to water but we can't make him drink. Similarly, we can have a clearly established scientific consensus around the world, the recent IPCC report, chaotic weather patterns emerging before our very eyes, and still Republican congressional representatives continue to promote atmospheric carbon pollution. Even when four past Republican EPA administrators urged them see the light at an Environment and Public Works Committee this June, House Republicans barely listened.

One would think Congressional Republicans might listen to former Republican Treasurers (Schultz and Paulson) pointing out how big the economic cost of climate change will be. And now The White House Council of Economic Advisers estimates that every decade of delay to cut greenhouse gases will cost us all an extra 40%. Floods, fires, famine, wars, & pestilence, are part of the social and economic costs of global warming and climate change. It should be clear that we must address this problem now.

Congressional inaction and obstructionism are inexcusable. Let us urge Representative Walden to show leadership. Congress should support the EPA, make carbon polluters pay, and lead us into a future where our grand-kids can live. And if Walden won't... let's elect someone who will.

Lee Lull
Talent

Think about it

Climate is weather averaged over time, influenced by local geography, distance from the equator and ocean, local topography, and elevation. Within the constraints of climate trends, daily weather is somewhat unpredictable. Unfortunately, we are experiencing rapid global-scale climatic changes producing increasing high temperatures, rising sea levels, ocean heat content, water vapor, and sea surface temperatures with dwindling glaciers, ice sheets, snow cover and sea ice and weather chaos.

Although forewarned, we are unprepared! Temperature is not increasing equally everywhere, but average global temperature is increasing. Climate change IS the big picture.

On a planet which experienced the hottest May and June since records began in 1880, we learn that July was the hottest Medford July on record, an event totally consistent with the century long trend of increasing local temperature.

We are gambling with our future! Is it wise to continue adding pollutants to the atmosphere on which we depend? We all have to breathe, so we breathe our pollutants. The health and safety of Oregonians is at stake; we face water shortages, coastal vulnerabilities, forest impacts, and agricultural threats.

Our media should help connect the dots. Southern Oregon can be proactive or reactive. Think about it!

Louise Shawkat

Media cover up

When media "covers the news," often they cover it up. For instance, regarding political parties and views of global warming, you'd think there is a sharp and equal partisan divide, Democrats trying, Republicans denying. Not so.

According to the recent large Yale survey of our entire voting population, almost half of liberal to moderate Republicans are concerned for what humans are doing to our planet. They are more aligned with moderate to conservative Democrats, and both are closer to liberal Democrats, than to conservative Republicans.

Lumping moderate Republicans in with global warming deniers is inaccurate, and it is unfair to their values and concerns. As global warming continues to wreak havoc in our environment and economy over the next 50 to 100 years or more, will Republicans like the justifiable blame they'll inherit for their typical avoidance and denial?

Our weather has always had ups and downs, but not the radical warmth and upheaval we're already having and are slated to have. We know all the carbon pulled from the air and stored in coal and oil and natural gas, accumulated over millions of years, has suddenly been put into our thin atmosphere during our industrial era. This leads to droughts in hot areas, storms and floods in wet areas, and the acidification of our oceans towards vast dead zones.

Yet humanity is still pumping over two million pounds of carbon dioxide into our susceptible air per second! This is collective suicidal stupidity, bound to cause us needless trouble for centuries to come. We know there are better ways to meet our needs with clean, renewable energy sources, yet we cling to old, sickening habits like junkies enabled to get our fixes. This is not just an economic matter; it is a colossal ethical challenge.

This challenge and opportunity isn't just for liberals and environmentalists. We need liberal to moderate Republicans to begin speaking their values and concerns – with each other, the media, and their representatives in political office. We're all in this together. Liberal and moderate Republicans, we need your help in doing what conservatives should also be doing – conserving a healthy climate for all of us and our descendants.

Brad Carrier

Consider your votes

In Jackson County, we successfully defeated the corporate inflow of campaign contributions when we supported 15-119, a measure protecting family farms from corporate influence. But for the most part, the 1% of our population who own 40% of the national wealth are able to influence decisions vastly more than the 99% who are the actual voters and who should be represented. Democracy is threatened by the inordinate influence that money has on both election campaigns and what representatives do while in office. A similar threat exists in addressing climate change.

Fossil fuel corporations are funding a campaign that denies the accepted science on the process and cause of climate change, and is contributing heavily to candidates who will protect their income even at the expense of future generations. When deciding for whom to vote in November, please consider voting against candidates funded by a few wealthy sources and supporting those funded by many small contributors.

Ken Deveney
Ashland

BE THE MEDIA!

If you have an event, announcement or call to action,

LET US KNOW!

Email to editor@rvcommunitypress.com

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Why Ferguson burned: Explaining St. Louis area riot to kids, outsiders

BY AISHA SULTAN

There was an eerie flashback to 1965 in parts of the St. Louis region Sunday. Riot gear. Tear gas. German shepherds. Looting. Stores on fire. Dozens arrested.

It was the violent aftermath of a violent encounter the day before between a police officer and teenager Mike Brown, who was killed. On this very same night that Ferguson boiled over, the Watts riots had burned in Los Angeles nearly 50 years prior. It's hard to explain race relations within the St. Louis metro area to those who have never lived here. It's even harder to make sense of it for children being raised in a more diverse and multiracial America than ever before. It's important to consider our recent past.

St. Louis, recently ranked as the sixth most racially segregated city in the country, has entrenched polarized attitudes about race and law enforcement.

Ferguson, a community of 21,000, is an inner-ring suburb, a place where it's easy for the economic recovery to bypass the poor. It's a city of 6 square miles, about 10 miles north of downtown. About two-thirds of the residents are African-American. The median income is \$37,000, roughly \$10,000 less than the state average. Nearly a quarter of residents live below the poverty level, compared with 15 percent statewide.

It's part of north St. Louis county, where whites left en masse beginning over the past few decades. In the '60s, they began rapidly leaving north city, creating one of one of the most extreme cases of "white flight" in the country. But many who remained in power are still white, including much of the law enforcement. A local lawyer said whenever she goes into courthouses in North County, all the defendants are always black, the cops always white.

The images from the day before were tinder for this fire: A young black man with his hands in the air. The graphic photo, widely circulated, of Brown slain, lying on the street. His stepfather holding a sign saying the police executed his son. Social media ablaze with photos and videos and outrage.

Brown's own family members have said the destruction in their hometown is salt in their wounds. When peaceful protests turn to a city's self immolation, there is no justice for anyone. What's left is a community used to being unheard, roiling in the wake of a deadly police shooting. A powder keg of unemployment and poverty, of neglect and frustration, and those willing to exploit a tragedy for personal gain. And this sort of reaction is all too familiar: Donna Rose, wrote in a Facebook comment on STLtoday's public

Facebook page, "I think the SWAT teams needs to open fire and kill all that r involved in the looting." Her profile identifies her as originally from Florissant, also in North County, now in California.

When an 18-year-old, unarmed black teenager is fatally shot, there are questions any mother, any citizen will have: Why was Brown's slain body left lying on the ground? Why did an officer, as yet unidentified, repeatedly fire gun shots when Brown didn't have a gun and had run away? What happened in that police car? Why was Brown there in the first place?

All this transpired in broad daylight, with video footage, now in the hands of the authorities investigating. These answers will take time to uncover.

The explanation offered from police officials thus far, that Brown struggled for the officer's gun, seems so at odds

with the descriptions of a gentle kid, who was relieved to graduate high school and wanted to start a better life.

The circumstance of that interaction, the exchange between a young black man and police officer in that neighborhood, will be understood completely differently, given the individual's personal life experience.

For those who have been on the receiving end of disrespect, mistrust, suspicion or brutality, the impulse is to believe Brown was brutally gunned down.

For those who are fearful anytime they cross into the city limits, most likely only for a sporting event, the young man must have done something to "deserve" his fate.

These perspectives largely fall along racial lines. It's a false dichotomy, a lazy narrative, to see this region as divided among racists whites and angry blacks. That's not

reality in many neighborhoods and families here. But it's the loudest, most visible part of the discourse. Like much of America, St. Louis has an undeniable problem talking about or dealing with issues involving race.

The most economically depressed and violence-torn parts of the city and county, predominantly black neighborhoods, are largely ignored by the civic establishment, unless to explain why the city's high rank in violent crime isn't an accurate depiction of the region.

Until we can tell our children — and ourselves — a more honest story about race in this region, we will be left with far worse tragedies to explain.

Aisha Sultan writes for stltoday.com

Communities standing against police violence

Protests and vigils are popping up all across the nation, in solidarity with Ferguson and also to mourn killings in their own communities. Bureau of Justice Statistics show that over 400 people are killed by police every year.

In Salt Lake City, protesters lined the sidewalk across the street from police headquarters

to express their outrage at a spate of recent police shootings of unarmed people. Earlier in the week, Dillon Taylor, a 20-year-old man was shot dead by Salt Lake City police outside a 7-Eleven.

In late August, some 15,000 supporters marched through Staten Island demanding further investigation into the death of Eric Garner who's

fatal arrest was caught on camera. New Yorkers are calling for an end to what they call violent and harassing tactics used by police.

A petition asking the White House to look into requiring all state, county and local police to wear lapel cameras has reached over 100,000 signatures.



Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. As veterans, we draw on our personal experiences and perspectives to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war - and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives. Our members have served our country in all branches of the military. We hold meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM - details at our website: <http://rv-vfp156.org/>

We participate in local peace stands in public places, hold rallies, and march in the Grants Pass Boatnik and Ashland Fourth of July parades. Our local organization was formed in 2008 and serves Jackson and Josephine Counties in southern Oregon. We regularly join forces with other peace and social justice groups throughout the Rogue Valley and the country.

The national Veterans for Peace organization was formed in 1985, maintains offices in St. Louis, Missouri, and is opposed to all wars.

We are a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)3 educational organization. For more information contact our president, Allen Hallmark, at hallmark3843@gmail.com.

THIS MODERN WORLD

OFFICER FRIENDLY, WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE DARTH VADER?

IS IT HAL-LOWEEN ALREADY?

HEH HEH! NO, KIDS--I'M JUST DOING MY JOB!

YOU SEE, LOCAL POLICE GET ALL KINDS OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FROM THE MILITARY THESE DAYS--FROM ASSAULT RIFLES TO THIRTY-TON COMBAT VEHICLES!

BUT WHY DO YOU WANT ALL THAT STUFF?

BECAUSE IT'S COOL!

I MEAN, TO KEEP YOU SAFE.

BUT HASN'T THE MILITARIZATION OF POLICE WORK REPEATEDLY LED TO TRAGEDY--LIKE WHEN A SWAT TEAM KILLED A 68-YEAR-OLD GRANDFATHER DURING A BOTCHED DRUG RAID?

OR WHEN A TWO-YEAR-OLD HAD A FLASH-BANG GRENADE GO OFF IN HIS CRIB?

LET ALONE THE POLICE RESPONSE TO PROTESTERS IN FERGUSON! IT LOOKS LIKE AN OCCUPATION IS UNDERWAY THERE!

IF YOU HAVE ALL THIS MILITARY EQUIPMENT--

--AREN'T YOU JUST GOING TO LOOK FOR AN EXCUSE TO USE IT?

ARE YOU POTENTIAL RIOTERS GOING TO DISPERSE--OR DO I NEED TO CALL FOR AN ARMORED COMBAT VEHICLE?

WE WERE JUST LEAVING.

PLEASE DON'T SHOOT US.

ROGUE VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESS

Oregon to vote on GMO labeling this November

BY HEATHER CALLAGHAN

Earlier this year, two Oregon cities voted at the ordinance level to ban GMO cultivation. This November, Oregon state residents will have the ability to vote on whether they want genetically modified foods labeled - or not. There has been an outpouring of interest among Oregonians to vote “Yea” on GMO labeling as evidenced by the petition to get the issue on the ballot. Signatures needed to put Initiative 44 on the ballot had to number at least 87,213. Oregon Right to Know collected 31,500 above the needed amount, totaling 118,780, as certified by the Secretary of State’s Office recently. Sandeep Kaushik of Oregon

Right to Know said, “*In only six weeks, we were able to collect more than 31,500 signatures more than the number needed to qualify - That is a powerful indication that Oregonians understand that protecting the profits of chemical conglomerates and agribusiness giants should not take precedence over the public’s right to know what is in the food they eat and feed their families.*” The initiative would require any food produced with GM ingredients to display the words “Genetically Engineered” on either the front or the back of the package. Raw produce, without packaging, would require that retailers place a label nearby. If passed, the law would officially go into

effect on January 1st, 2016. Oregon’s wheat exports were thrown in disarray last year, with the mysterious discovery of biotech test GM wheat that contaminated conventional wheat fields. The news of this event prompted import bans from other countries, provoking economical fears. Now, Oregon’s residents are looking at GMO field mapping and food labeling - but not without staunch opposition from big biotech and agricultural companies. In fact, while state and city initiatives are making labeling headway, shooting for 2016, a bill introduced at the federal level could undo all of them. It’s ironically called the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2014, but those who support



The Oregon Mandatory Labeling of GMOs Initiative, Measure 92 is on the November 4, 2014 statewide ballot in Oregon as an initiated state statute. The measure would mandate the labeling of certain foodstuffs that were produced with or contain genetically modified organisms.

GMO labeling are calling it the Deny Americans the Right to Know (DARK) Act.

Heather Callaghan is a natural health blogger and food freedom activist.

Legacy

CONTINUED FROM 1

Police departments, especially in larger cities, are using federal grant money to buy armored cars and other tactical gear. Others receive equipment through military-transfer programs like the Defense Department’s 1033 Program And it is not just large metropolitans that are receiving this equipment. Through the 1033 Program, military-issue tactical gear has made its way to the Klamath County Sheriff’s Office and the Klamath Falls Police Department. According to state records, the sheriff’s office has obtained 14 M16 rifles, a robot, three grenade launchers, 40 riot-control face shields, night-vision gear, and a mine-resistant vehicle along with other items. But are these weapons a good match for community policing? Research shows that militarized police response is more likely to provoke protesters. A UC Berkeley research team, which studied clashes between police and activists, found that protests tend to turn violent when officers use aggressive tactics, such as approaching demonstrators in riot gear or lining up in military-like formations. Recent events in Ferguson, Mo., are a good example, the study’s lead researcher said. Certainly the police are equipped to deal with mobs of violent insurgents, but not crowds of mostly peaceful protesters, and the few violent offenders and criminals who take advantage during crisis. One thing the crackdown has done is increase awareness of the problem of militarization of our police. In big cities and small towns, citizens are fearful of today’s stormtrooper and miss the professional officer of earlier generations. “My biggest takeaway involves the fact that the military equipment displayed by the Ferguson police has really focused people on how under the federal 1033 program

,local police departments have been given billions of military armament.” writes CBS talk show host Dom Giordano. The crackdown in Ferguson has even impressed the White House with President Obama ordering a comprehensive review of the government’s strategy of outfitting local police departments with military-grade equipment. Locally the city of Medford is taking some steps to empower police with knowledge, including training for their officers in dealing with citizens with mental illness. In 2011, Medford reported “an alarming spike in the number of mentally ill people coming in contact with the police on an almost daily basis.” In August, Medford police shot and killed Stephen McMilon, a Vietnam vet who family says suffered from PTSD. His stepson explained, “he just never got over the war.” Witnesses say he had been acting strangely, though not in a menacing manner. Police say that McMilon had been contacted earlier that day on a domestic disturbance call. McMilon was armed with a shotgun, two handguns and “substantial” ammunition when he was approached by Medford Police on foot and in an armored vehicle. Instead of investing in military equipment, community police should be investing in technology like body cameras to ensure accountability and build trust. Police must be trained in dealing with mental illness and able to develop new strategies and tactics that leave lethal force as a final and rare option.

Back to School? Don’t be a target for the Military!

BY RECRUITER WATCH PDX

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, schools receiving federal funding MUST release students’ personal information to military recruiters if they are to continue to receive funding. Students may opt-out of the military database at the beginning of the school year. “They’ll know where you live... They’ll have your phone number... They’ll come to your door ... if you let them. Military recruiters, by strict authority of the No Child Left Behind Act, must be given the names, addresses and phone numbers of all high school students each year. Want to keep your privacy? You can be removed from the list of names by ‘opting-out.’” reports The Full Picture, of San Francisco. WHY DOES IT MATTER? The September, 2009 article in Mother Jones by David Goodman, entitled, “A Few Good Kids?,” deals with the heavy military recruitment of at-risk (low-income and/or minority and/or less academic) youth and the insidious invasion of student privacy under the No Child Left Behind Act and JAMRS (consumer) database maintained by the Pentagon. OPT-OUT FACTS * Students must opt-out EVERY YEAR. * Traditionally, the deadline for opting-out for the year is October 1. * Students do NOT require parental or guardian consent to opt-out. * Every high school student’s personal information is being released to the military -- not

just that of juniors and seniors. (However, high school students will probably not be contacted by the military recruiters till their junior and senior years.) * Females are NOT exempt from the provision. HOW CAN STUDENTS OPT-OUT? * At registration -- before the beginning of the school year. There is a checkbox on the registration form that

allow for opting-out. * By going directly to the school main office and amending the registration form if the student has not checked the box to opt-out. (If a student does not remember whether he or she opted out or not, the student can go to the main office to verify the information on their form.) * By submitting an opt-out form (download at www.themmob.org/lmca).

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Karen Jeffery's Occupy the street

Whereby our roving reporter takes timely questions to people on the street.

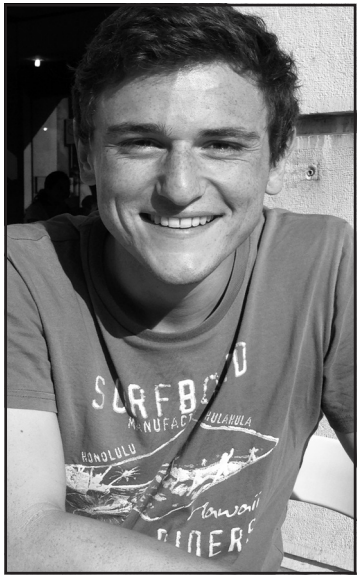
Our roving reporter is traveling this month in the Côte d'Azur and asked questions of expats, living in Nice, France:

What's the best and worst of living here as an expat?



Sarah Fausett
Villefranche sur Mer (from North Carolina). Biologist/geneticist and Student. Here in Nice for 2 months.

“It’s frustrating. Hard. Inconvenient. But it’s also more fun than doing anything in your comfort zone! It’s been a roller coaster. I’m lost and lonely. Then I feel like king of the world. The dichotomy is huge. It’s the best social life, mixture of people, easy to mingle. And there are lots of bars, restaurants, things to do. Then there’s the bureaucracy. But look out on this bay (Villefranche). I struggle with money but live in one of the richest places on earth. How lucky am I?!”



Emmett O’Riordan
Deck hand on yachts. Lives in Nice, from San Francisco (25, parents brought him at age 8)

“I love the landscape - from the beach to the mountains, c’est manifique! I hate the bureaucracy. I like to complain about France but then realize it’s my French upbringing that makes me do so (ha-ha)...the French in me. I love the café and wine culture. I’m always meeting amazing people. Recently I was climbing Mont Saint Victoire, literally hanging on the cliff made famous by Cézanne, when I got it - the whole impressionist thing. The French culture is alive!”



Daba Isaac
Senegal. 10 years in Nice. Secrétaire Generale of AFESEN Commerciale, after graduating from the University of Nice.

“Here one feels a solidarity with tout la monde. People are open, generous, love strangers and foreigners. But it’s really expensive. And now there’s a fear of strangers, of others... maybe taking jobs, changing the French culture. It’s a worry.”

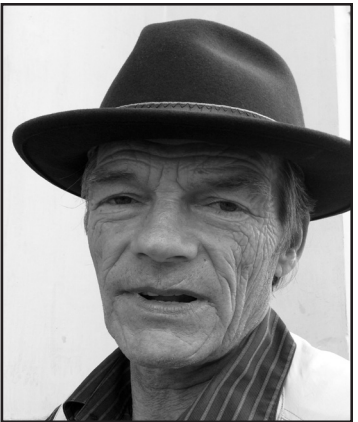


Elisheva Copin.
Artist/Sculptor. From Israel (1978).

Elisheva came to France at 26 and worked as a diplomat in Israeli embassies in Europe and London. “I loved the new, exciting, modern Europe, so I stayed in Paris and decided to sculpt, which I’ve done since. One day I realized that children should be raised by the beach. So I moved to Nice. I love the sense of liberty here, but I think some French have become too racist, and sometimes I ponder returning to Israel. Still if the sun’s in your heart, you can be happy anywhere.”



Karen Jeffery is a writer, editor, photographer, activist, publicist and resource. Reach her at mauitutu@gmail.com or follow her blog at travelswithtutu.blogspot.com



France Ulrich Reinhold Schele
From Bavaria, here 24 years, 5 months, and 8 days. Non Artist/Non photographer.

“I do naive painting...I make little things. One doesn’t need money here for a social life. Everything is outside. I have good friends, but Nice is also a human comedy of negative people...with so many different values. And some people make more money if they don’t look for work, since France has a most generous social safety net. Still I’m here.”

8 Things to Know About the Iraq Crisis

BY MOVEON.ORG

U.S. bombing strikes are now well under way in Iraq in a military mission that President Obama said could go on for months.¹ U.S. military planes have also been delivering vital humanitarian assistance to civilians fleeing the violence, including Yazidis who were forced onto Iraq’s Mount Sinjar by ISIS militants laying siege on the mountain

Please read on and then share. It’s vital that we engage the country in a conversation about the U.S. role in Iraq.

8 Things to Know about the Iraq Crisis

1. Right-wing war hawks are pushing for another full-blown war in Iraq. Senator John McCain, Senator Lindsey Graham, other Republicans in Congress, and right-wing figures—who blindly led America into invading and occupying Iraq—are now demanding more military action that could drag us back into full-scale war in the region.
2. The slippery slope is real. Mission creep can too easily occur—along with unintended consequences and new problems created by the use of U.S. military force. History shows us that many big wars start out looking small, including the Korean War and the Vietnam War. And we are now dealing with a prime example of unintended consequences: Bush’s war of choice and military occupation of Iraq set the stage for Iraq’s troubles today, including the rise of ISIS.
3. Voters elected President Obama to end the Iraq war that George W. Bush recklessly started. President Obama’s opposition to the Iraq war before it began and his pledge to end it—as part of the contrast between him and those who pushed for war—were key to his success in both the Democratic primary election and the general election in 2008.
4. Ultimately, Iraq’s problems can be solved only by an Iraqi-led political solution. President Obama has said that there is no military solution to the crisis in Iraq and that there can only be “an Iraqi solution.”
5. Members of Congress, including Democratic lawmakers, are insisting that the president come to Congress for authorization. In July, the House of Representatives listened to the American people to require, by a bipartisan vote of 370-40, the president to seek congressional authorization before deploying or maintaining a sustained combat role in Iraq. Congress should continue to assert its authority under the

Constitution to authorize and oversee U.S. commitments to open-ended war overseas.

6. The Middle East is a complicated place where U.S. military intervention has a troubling track record. The Middle East has many armed actors whose motivations often compete with each other and conflict with American values, and U.S. military intervention there has a track record of often making things worse. One tragic absurdity of this moment is that the U.S. military is now using U.S. equipment to bomb U.S. weapons wielded by enemies the U.S. didn’t intend to arm against the U.S. and U.S. allies. That’s a good reason to be concerned about the U.S. arming rebels in nearby Syria, which experts say wouldn’t have stopped the rise of ISIS anyway. Experts further warn that U.S. military force in the region only tends to create more problems, including the risk of terrorist retaliation.

7. Military action could lead to even more innocent civilians getting caught in the crossfire and suffering. The Iraq war that Bush started didn’t just cost America the lives of nearly 4,500 service members, plus \$2 trillion according to modest estimates. Approximately 500,000 Iraqi civilians also died in the armed conflict—possibly more. In the current conflict, ISIS militants are persecuting various minority populations of Iraq, such as the Yazidis who had fled to Mount Sinjar. Escalating military action, including drone strikes, risks catching more civilians in the crossfire.

8. Opposing endless war isn’t the same as being an isolationist. The Iraq crisis, including the humanitarian disaster, demands an international, diplomatic response. We have options to support the people of Iraq, as well as tackle this crisis in a way that reflects America’s best interests and 21st century realities. For one, the U.S. can work through the United Nations and other multilateral organizations to support a major global diplomatic initiative. In the face of the current crisis, the Friends Committee on National Legislation also recommends a number of steps instead of U.S. bombings, such as working with other nations through the United Nations to organize humanitarian evacuations of stranded and trapped civilians, pressing for and upholding an arms embargo in Iraq and Syria, engaging with the UN to reinvigorate efforts for a lasting political solution for Iraq and Syria, and increasing humanitarian aid.

Our health care casualties matter less than war dead?

BY DONNA SMITH

The photos are horrific of the dead and injured from the most recent escalation of warfare in Palestine. Seeing dead children who have their small bodies ripped apart by weapons of war forces me (and others I suspect) to confront the realities of our violent, war-prone world. I hate war. It hurts to see the photos, and I always have a hard time understanding why we have all had to assert our power since the beginning of recorded history by killing one another. Will we ever advance beyond settling our differences with war?

Then I also think about the 123 people dying every day in the U.S. without access to the health care that might have saved their lives. This is a war too. It is a war waged by the rich and powerful against those without enough money or power. People suffer and die needlessly and invisibly since no one takes their photos or speaks of them on the evening news. Do their lives matter less than those of the war dead in the Middle east? Apparently so. Or we'd see the pictures and we'd hear the stories and we'd stop blaming these healthcare dead for not being rich enough or powerful enough to access care. Couldn't those Palestinian families have moved to safer areas to avoid the bombs and drone strikes? Couldn't the Israeli soldiers killed have avoided the tunnels or even avoided military service that put them in harm's way? As ludicrous as those suggestions sound with their obvious difficulties for the people in the war zone, we seem to think the healthcare dead might have done things differently if they had just wanted to badly enough. Else, why would we deny their deaths and ignore their suffering? We've kept track of the

Americans killed in the actions in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002. And we ought to all know that 6,717 Americans died in those wars along with many thousands more civilians. If we calculated the daily number of dead Americans in these wars, we come up with approximately 1-2 Americans killed each day. And we are saddened by these deaths. Often the war dead are young people with full lives ahead of them until they were dead. This is true of our healthcare dead too since most seniors can access care through their Medicare coverage.

I want the patient stories to be recorded and told. I want photos and videos of those we have placed in harm's way in our profit-driven health care system. The post Affordable Care Act/Obamacare stories must be recorded and shared if we are ever to end the cruel health care warfare that kills so many innocents day after day. We cannot keep denying their suffering or allowing our ignorance to shield us from the reality.

Civilians, including all those children, who are killed in military action are often considered collateral damage and an unfortunate but necessary cost for pursuing the overarching reason(s) for the war -- whatever they may be. Those who die in the U.S. because they lack access to life-saving health care or the money/coverage to secure that care are collateral damage in the unending quest for personal wealth and corporate profits and the all American freedom to pursue both. Is there really such a big difference between those killed in war and those killed knowingly and frequently for profit?

We need improved and expanded Medicare for all for life. There are only a few reasons why we do not have full

access to needed care -- and all of those reasons are economic and largely based on false assertions about the very scary prospects of a single-payer system. We can end the war against the sick and injured in America by providing a single standard of high quality care for all without financial barrier. We cannot stop people from getting sick or hurt, but we can stop killing them with our lack of action to change the system that snuffs out their lives.

Take photos and record the videos. Share the stories... please. Let's at least try to recognize that these lives mattered as much as those in the war zones in other parts of the world. Could we ask for a cease-fire on our health care battlefield? Because while we wait to see what happens in the political world through every new election cycle, the numbers killed rise, our capacity to look the other way grows, and our society becomes ever more disconnected from the kind of peaceful existence many of us had hoped would be unfolding in the 21st century.

August 9, 2014 -- Today's count of the healthcare dead and broke for profit in the U.S.: The 2014, to date, U.S. medical-financial-industrial-complex system dead: 26,691 The 2014, to date, U.S. health care system bankrupt: 429,226 ** These figures are calculated based on the Harvard University studies on excess deaths in the U.S. due to lack of insurance coverage or the ability to pay for needed health care, and the Harvard University study that calculated the high percentage of personal bankruptcies attributable to medical crisis and debt in the U.S. 123 people die daily due to lack of coverage or cash to

HEALTHCARE 10

Living donor act

BY VANESSA HOUK

Eighteen sons and daughters, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles: that's the number of people who die daily waiting for a transplant in the United States. Meanwhile more than 100,000 folks are on the national transplant registry-- waiting for a chance at a new life. Not all of these people's lives are hinging on another person's death either, in fact there are several types of procedures that can now be performed with living donors, including lung and kidney transplants.

Unfortunately insurance companies often get in the way of these transplants. Right now it is legal for life and disability insurance companies to charge higher premiums, limit coverage or even terminate someone for being a living organ donor.

On July 30th, The Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 5263) was introduced by Representative Jerrold Nadler (D- NY) along with Representative Michael Burgess (R-TX). This bill, if passed, would protect living donors from insurance discrimination, grant leave from work to recover from transplant surgery, and promote education about living donation.

The bill clarifies that living organ donors may use time granted through the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to recover from transplant surgery.

H.R. 5263 has an educational component to it and requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to educate the general public on the benefits of living organ donation and the rights of living donors. That is likely to make a difference in the number of people who might be willing to be donors, thereby saving even more lives.

What you can do: Call your state representatives and tell them you support the Living Donor Act (H.R. 5263). Ron Wyden's Medford office (541) 858-5122. Greg Walden's Medford office 541-776-4646 Jeff Merkley's Medford office 541-608-9102

Consider being a living donor. The American Transplant Foundation has information about living donation on their website. <http://www.americantransplantfoundation.org>

Another resource is <http://www.organdonor.gov/about/livedonation.html>

Hope

CONTINUED FROM 1

What can you do if someone you know is thinking about hurting themselves? Or if you yourself are plagued with thoughts of ending your life? First know that other people care about you. We care that you are hurting and you are not alone. We hope that you'll reach out and talk about what you are going through. There are several local groups who can provide support including NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) of Southern

Oregon. They can be reached at (541) 774-7872 Email: debnpat@charter.net.

Community Works has a hotline number the Help Line 541-779-4357 and they can connect you to local resources.

Jackson County has a 24 hour Emergency Mental Health Crisis line 774-8201.

Rogue Valley Veterans & Community Outreach... (541) 779-8564



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Community poets offer thoughts on war and peace

BY NINA EGERT

Morning in Ashland:
Cranes of folded hope emerge
In shadow and sun.

In Ashland's Plaza
A dead tree serve to support
Dozens of peace cranes.

The Plaza cries out,
"Stop the madness
now, dear ones.
All things nuclear
must go now!"

Harnessing atoms,
We are told is the future.
Do not believe it!

I have nothing much
And do the laundry of Life.
No need for weapons.

Children burn to death
City blown away by bombing
Never to forget

A lonely dog limps
Over the rubble and dust
To sniff a stiff hand



Masako Cross sings while being accompanied on harp by Phoebe Knowles *Photo by Allen Hallmark*

From Japanese-American students who had visited the Hiroshima Memorial:

Nuclear fallout
Scorched earth,
melting bodies and
Jellyfish babies

To a child writing her very first poem:

The moon and the sun:
The moon is pretty and big,
The sun keeps you warm.

The above words of various poets who contributed to the 2014 Hiroshima/Nagasaki annual vigil say all that truly needs to be said about the event. For two and a half days in early August, people gathered in the Ashland Plaza to read literature assembled by members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, to listen to music concerts by various local artists, to fold origami cranes, and offer their heartfelt thoughts in verse. Contributors spanned the full spectrum of our community—from homemakers and artists to hardcore activists:



Phoebe Knowles adds a poem to the peace tree. *Photo by Nina Egert*

Many of the poems, including a collectively-composed hokku no renga (haiku conversation), were beautifully read by Norma Burton from Unity at the closing ceremony on Aug. 9th in the Japanese Garden. To read the entire body of poems submitted during the vigil, please go to: <http://peacehouse.net/hiroshima-nagasaki-vigil-august-2-12-2014/> We offer our thanks to all who participated. May there be peace on earth--- and let it begin with us.



Haiku poems fill the peace tree. *Photo by Nina Egert*

How radioactive is the Pacific Ocean after Fukushima?

BY KERA ABRAHAM

The March 2011 earthquake-tsunami-nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, raised lots of questions—about the politics of nuclear energy, about the safety of nuclear power plants on fault lines (like nearby Diablo Canyon), and about the spread of radioactive isotopes in the Pacific Ocean. One U.S. expert can probably speak to the science of that last question better than anyone: Ken Buesseler, a marine chemist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Buesseler's statements about potential radioactivity in seafood (like tuna) have pretty much freaked out half of Facebook. What doesn't get as much mileage: His clarification that only certain fish off the Fukushima coast are unsafe to eat, and that seafood from the U.S. West Coast is virtually unaffected. But he wanted more data. So he and colleague Colleen Durkin launched a website, Our Radioactive Ocean, to track the spread of Fukushima radiation across the Pacific Ocean. Over the next six months, they set up more than 30 ocean-water sampling sites from La Jolla, Calif., to Alaska and Hawaii. One of the sites

is in Monterey County, at Granite Canyon in Big Sur. Last week, Buesseler and Durkin sent out an email blast with their findings. One radioactive isotope that showed up in most water samples: Cesium-137. That's no surprise—cesium-137, released in 1960s nuclear weapons testing, has a 30-year half-life and decays slowly. The average level was 1.5 Bq/m3 (becquerels per cubic meter of water), a really trace amount compared with the EPA's drinking water limit of 7,400 Bq/m3. The levels off Fukushima after the accident, by contrast, were in the millions of Bq/m3—definitely dangerous. The meltdown also spilled cesium-134. That isotope only has a half-life of two years, so any detected in the sea would point to Fukushima. "Though we do detect this isotope in abundance off Japan, cesium-134 is not YET present in any of the sample[s] collected by citizen scientists along the North American West Coast and Hawaii," the email states. "Our instruments are capable of detecting as little as 0.2 Bq/m3, so the concentration of cesium-134 is below this level." Cesium-134 might still show up in their samples, the scientists add, depending on the complex

mixing of ocean currents. "While those models predict increasing levels of both cesium isotopes for the next 2-3 years, the highest published prediction is for 20-30 Bq/m3, or well below what is thought to be of human health or fisheries concern," they write. Results from the February 2014 Granite Canyon sample: Cs137: 1.7 ± 0.1Bq/m3 Cs134: below detection The beach sampling, however, has limitations, and Buesseler and Durkin are asking for donations to fund offshore seawater sampling "to resolve what levels are in the oceans and how quickly they will end up along the coast line." They hope to tap a research vessel from Moss Landing Marine Labs. Point Sur is traveling from Dutch Harbor, Alaska, to Eureka, California, taking about 50 samples of both surface and deeper ocean water. "Even though we were not funded to participate, it was too good an opportunity to pass up," the email states. "Now we'll need to raise enough funds through OurRadioactiveOcean.org to get these samples analyzed so we can resolve that critical offshore to onshore gradient in cesium isotopes."

Healthcare

CONTINUED FROM 9

pay for care; 1,978 go bankrupt every day due to medical crisis and debt though the majority had insurance at the time their illness or injury occurred. This statistic is also based on the 1.2 million bankruptcies in the U.S. in 2012, according

to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and calculating those medically-related bankruptcies from that number. *Donna Smith is the Executive Director of Health Care for All Colorado and the Health Care for All Colorado Foundation.*

Thank you!

from Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

Ashland, Oregon Branch of Women's International League For Peace & Freedom thanks the Rogue Valley for supporting, volunteering, & attending the Hiroshima / Nagasaki Vigil events Aug. 2 -- Aug. 9, 2014.



WILPF stands for No More War, Disarmament of Nuclear Weapons & Power & Human Rights. This years Vigil featured Charles Johnson, Director, Joint Task Force on Nuclear Power, explained the dangerous power plant at Hanford.

The valley was educated with the standing Nuclear Maze on the Ashland Plaza Wed. Aug. 6, - Fri. Aug.8 2014.

We thank all the musicians, Haiku poems, folding peace cranes, and floating sunflowers that created the art of sounds and feelings during our vigil.

The special ceremonies for Hiroshima & Nagasaki reminds us all of human suffering, forgiveness which confirms our comitment to continue working for No More War & a Nuclear Free World.

The 2014 .Vigil Committee.

Job Gap Report: Oregon families sinking

VIA PRESS RELEASE

Working families are out of balance – costs are climbing and paychecks are shrinking. Workers who don’t earn a living wage can’t make ends meet. On top of that, many are struggling with deep debt, especially student loan and medical debt.

“Families Out of Balance” is the first report in the 2014 Job Gap Economic Prosperity Series, produced by the Alliance for a Just Society. The report, released today by Oregon Action, shows that a living wage in Oregon ranges from \$15.96 per hour for a single adult to \$30.75 for a single adult with two children. Nationally, the report reveals a shocking disproportionality in the burden of debt shouldered by low-income families, compared to wealthier families.

The Alliance has produced the Job Gap Study on jobs and wages since 1999.

Yet, despite having far less income for each dollar of debt, our study shows that 89 percent of low-income families prioritize making debt payments on time – sometimes going without food, heat or other basic necessities.

Meanwhile, the minimum wage in Oregon is now \$9.10. As a result, even full-time workers can’t make ends meet, much less save for the future or for emergencies. Our report looks at five household types in Oregon, you can read it here. There is also a national report and data for other states and counties. It’s available at thejobgap.org. A living wage is the hourly pay needed to cover the cost of housing, food, utilities and other expenses, including modest savings.

“The release of this report around Labor Day weekend is timely to say the least,” said Darlene Huntress, Executive Director of Oregon Action. “As we celebrate workers across our state, this report shows a stark reality for many of them. And even as we boast one of the highest minimum wages in the country, Oregon’s wage floor still falls short of a living wage, denying workers the ability to support themselves and their families. Whether we are talking about student loans, credit card debt, healthcare or housing costs, Oregon families are struggling to make ends meet and \$9.10 an hour doesn’t come close to what workers need to cover the cost of living.”

In addition, research in “Families Out of Balance” will be critical as policy makers debate minimum wage increases.

While Seattle recently set the bar with a \$15 minimum

wage, others, including the federal government, haven’t kept up. The national minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour, unchanged since 2009.

Our study finds that even \$15 an hour doesn’t cover the true cost of living. In the 10 states studied for the report, that amount would only meet the living needs of a single adult (without children) in two states: Idaho and Montana. “It’s outrageous that our nation’s leaders have failed to increase the federal minimum wage for five years. They are failing our families, and they are creating an economic and social disaster,” said LeeAnn Hall, executive director of the Alliance for a Just Society. “Lifting the minimum wage to a true living wage is the first step to giving all families a level playing field,” she said.

Gladys Alvarez from Medford, whose story is featured in both the state and national reports, is finding that her minimum wage job at a local hotel leaves her nothing at the end of the month to save or spend. “ Right now, I only have \$40 in my bank account, but I owe \$2,000 in medical debt from an emergency room visit for stomach pain. Without savings, we can only afford to pay the minimum of \$60 on our two credit card bills. I pay \$300 to \$400 a month to feed our growing kids. I’m working as hard as I can, but I don’t know how I’m going to make it with this debt and this stress.”

The Alliance for a Just Society and Oregon Action call on Oregon leaders to take action now to create real economic stability for working families. We recommend these policy changes:

- Increase the federal minimum wage
- Abolish the federal tipped minimum wage
- Reinvest in higher education
- Address medical debt acquired before the Affordable Care Act
- Expand Medicaid eligibility
- Regulate payday lending

Oregon Action is a statewide, non-partisan network of people and organizations dedicated to social, economic and racial justice for all through individual and group empowerment.

Alliance for a Just Society is a national research, policy, and organizing network that advocates locally and nationally for economic and social equity.



Big One overdue in Oregon

BY KOIN 6 NEWS

A 6.0 magnitude quake in California’s Napa Valley served as another friendly reminder to Oregonians about “the big one.”

It’s not a matter of if, but when a major quake along the Cascadia fault strikes Oregon, and emergency preparedness is of the utmost importance.

Three faults run through the city of Portland, and off the Oregon Coast sits the Juan de Fuca plate – which could move at any time. The California quake reminds Portland State University Geologist Scott Burns that an earthquake of that magnitude or higher could just have easily have struck Portland.

“We’re concerned about that,” he said.

A big one in the Pacific Northwest occurs on average every 500 years, he said. The last large earthquake in the region happened more than 300 years ago.

Are we ready?

University of Portland Environmental Studies professor Robert Butler said local infrastructure could be severely damaged by a major quake, because any buildings constructed before 1990 were built with no earthquake codes. “Those unreinforced buildings will sustain severe damage,” said Butler. “We have infrastructure that is not ready for that.”

Furthermore, Burns said more faults are being found in the Portland area and Willamette Valley. Oregon is making progress

retrofitting buildings with seismic upgrades. Still, experts say too few Oregonians take the threat seriously enough to have an earthquake kit at home.

Emergency preparedness at home includes an earthquake kit, which should include water, a first aid kit, medication, a flashlight, a portable radio and plenty of batteries.



Labor CONTINUED FROM 1

graduates with over \$26K in student loans. The average credit card debt is over \$4,000. Additionally, nearly 20 percent of mortgages in the state are underwater. If Oregon workers are to survive we need to stand together more than ever.

Despite active opposition and a dysfunctional Congress, job killing trade bills like Trans Pacific Partnership might still be signed into law during the upcoming lame duck session. Labor activists must be vigilant continue to put pressure on officials like Senator Wyden, who play a critical role in passing this trade bill.

But there are some hope for our working class. Health care reform promises to create a high demand for health care jobs and supporting industries. These are good, living wage jobs that cannot be outsourced.

Locally we have a strong, supportive labor community. Earlier this year, in a massive show of solidarity, hundreds of workers, neighbors and community members showed their support for the Medford Teachers Association in their successful struggle for a fair labor contract.

Through our economic development councils we can dedicate federal money to regional jobs programs in forests clearing overgrowth and through energy retrofitting of homes, for example.

Organizations like Oregon Strong Voice, Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice and Oregon Action continue to build relations in the community and help create opportunity for workers and families.

So this September 1st, be sure to take the day off. Celebrate with picnic, barbecue and revelry with family and friends but come back tomorrow, rested and ready to stand for labor.

HUSH, GAZA, HUSH !!



AMERICA IS TRYING TO SLEEP !!

The US is the chief supplier of military funding and military hardware that Israel is using to destroy Gaza.

www.occupymedfordoregon.org
email: occupymedford@gmail.com

Saturday 10am - Medford Library

All War is a War on Children

Fall community courses on Global Warming

Temperature are rising! Snowfall is dwindling! Wildfire conditions are extending! That we are experiencing an unusually disrupted climate is hard to miss. But what is causing it? Is it all a natural cycle? What is it doing, and can we do anything about it?

These are the questions that Alan Journet, Co-facilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now will answer in a series of courses to be offered locally this fall.

For those wanting a full and detailed discussion, through the SOU / OLLI program “Carbon Pollution, Climate Change and Rogue Consequences” will run weekly from September 8th through November 10th at 1:00 – 3:00 pm in the SOU/RCC Higher Education Center in Medford. Contact SOU/OLLI for information: (541) 552-6048.

Two three week mini courses will offer condensed versions of this material:

Saturdays September 6th through 20th from 1:00 – 3:0 pm at the Coyote Trails Jefferson Nature Center in S. Medford, behind the Harry and David Field of the US Cellular Community Park on Hwy 99. Contact Coyote Trails Nature Center for information: (541) 282-8577

Thursdays October 9th through 23rd from 7:00 to (:00 pm at the North Mountain Park Nature Center on N. Mountain Avenue in Ashland. Contact North Mountain Park Nature Center for information: (541) 488-6606.

More information is available at <http://socan.info>; click ‘calendar’ or from Dr. Alan Journet 541-301-4107; alanjournet@gmail.com. Registration is necessary for all offerings with a fee for the first and third.

ACRC fall trainings

Ashland Community Resource Center offers services for families, confidential and individual support, resume writing, job search, internet access, educational opportunities and much more. **Ready to rent?** A two part training session is offered on Sept. 17 and Sept. 24 3:00-6:00 PM. at the Ashland Resource Center 570 Clover Lane, Ashland,. Learn what makes a great tenant. Participants receive a ready to rent certificate of completion at the end of the training. This certificate can be presented to landlords as proof of their achievement.

Future trainings include:
Energy savings for your home October 22 3:00-5:00 PM
Understanding your finances November 19 3:00-5:00 PM

These events are free and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, call (541) 631- 2235

FEATURED EVENT

TEDx Ashland - Live Telecast

Wednesday, October 8 at 9:00am - 6:00pm

Southern Oregon University - Hannon Library - Meese Room (#305), 1250 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland

The world is changing fast. Fresh thinking can be found in every direction, in emerging geographies as well as in the western hemisphere. Prepare to have your world turned upside down: Join us for a live Telecast of TED Global from Brazil to explore the realities of tomorrow.

Register online at: <http://tinyurl.com/ofeg6yu>

Thank you to all of our supporters, subscribers, advertisers and friends.

Pride Parade - October 11th

Dust off your banners, build your floats and take it to the street, Saturday October 11thwe will parade down Main Street in Ashland to Lithia Park's Band Shell where we will have vendor booths, live entertainment, food and so much more.

Just go to www.sopride.org to the events page and down load your application to march in the parade or have a vendor booth. The parade is a community event it is for fun and for free.

Homegrown Harvest Festival

Celebrating the bounty of our valley.
Sunday, September 21, 3-6 pm
Lithia Park Bandshell
A GMO Free Event
Featuring live local music and community activities:

GMO-Free food booth
crafters market with a collection of local vendors.
Apple pie bake off and games and activities.
Hosted by Families for Food Freedom

Be the media March for Hope

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is your social justice news resource. We don't pretend to hide our biases: RVCP is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community.

At RVCP, we care about making the world a better place for everyone. Our goals are to educate people about social justice issues and encourage them to get involved in creating positive change.

Most importantly, we want to hear from YOU. If you have an event, call to action or news item to share, let us know via email or call our hotline 541-622-9483.

RVC P depends on financial support from readers like you. By contributing a few dollars, you can help us continue to be a force for positive change in our community and the world. Please send donations to 258 A Street #1, Ashland, Oregon 97520.

In 2014 thousands of concerned citizens in over 84 communities across the nation march to raise awareness about our country's need for a world-class treatment and recovery system for people with mental illness. Together we CAN make a DIFFERENCE!

JOIN THE MARCH on Saturday, September 13, 2014, from 2 – 6 p.m. at the Lithia Commons II located on Bartlett Street, between 5th Street and 6th Street, in downtown Medford, Oregon.

An afternoon of music, food and fun, presented by NAMI-SO. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Wally Hicks – Former Oregon House Representative, District 3
Dr. Alan Bates, Oregon State Senator
Special musical guest Scott Leverett

Leading this year's March 4 Hope is renowned bagpiper Robert Johnson. A special THANK YOU to the Hoskins brothers for arranging Mr. Johnson's participation!

A lived practice of nonviolence

A two day exploration with Kit Miller and Dominic Barter.

Sept 9th & 10th, 9am - 5 pm

Rogue River Room, SOU Ashland

Whether you are new to nonviolence or have been exploring for years, we invite you to go “off road” with us to expand your understanding of nonviolence as a lived practice.

To explore conscious ways of using resources and to increase economic diversity of the participants, there is neither a fixed fee for the event nor is it free. The workshop includes the live project of taking financial co-responsibility for the costs of the event and sustaining the work of Dom and Kit.

Join them for two days in Ashland to explore nonviolence

- as an internal discipline,
- as an interpersonal practice and
- as a transformative force for structural change.

Through projects, organizational work, personal transformation and individual activism, Dominic Barter and Kit Miller have been experimenting for many years with aspects of nonviolence in Brazil, the US and now also in more than 25 other countries.

Register at<http://bookwhen.com/nonviolence>

For more information contact Joanna Niemann joannawn@yahoo.com



Jackson County needs a new sheriff!
To get a free “GMO-- Get Mike Out” bumper sticker to display on your vehicle please send a #10 self addressed stamped envelope to: GMO Stickers - 258 A Street #1, Ashland, OR 97520. Ad good while supplies last



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